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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine the various economic facets of inequality in education in India. The specific focus is on inter-group inequalities, such as inequality between males and females and between backward and advanced castes. It is hypothesized that returns to education accrue differently to different groups of population and unfavorably to the weaker sections. Reasons for the differential rates of return are found either in the functioning of the school system or in the functioning of the labor market. An in-depth analysis of the reasons why the same kind of education results in different rates of return for different population sectors shows that the returns to education would be far greater if the very groups most discriminated against, women and disadvantaged castes, received more attention. The analysis is based on primary data from approximately 1,000 members of the workhorse in the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh (India). The following chapters are included: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Regional Inequality in Educational Development in India"; (3) "The Sample Survey"; (4) "Returns to Education in India: A Review"; (5) "The Internal Rate of Return: The Methodology"; (6) "Returns to Education"; (7) "Inequality in Human Capital Formation"; (8) "Economics of Discrimination in the Labour Market"; and (9) "Summary and Conclusions." A statistical appendix provides supporting tables. (Contains 34 tables, 15 figures, and 315 references.) (SLD)

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